

## POSSE AFTER CRAVEN

Alleged Murderer Being Pursued With Bloodhounds.

## TRAIL NEAR ASHBURN

BELIEF THAT THE FUGITIVE WILL BE SOON CAUGHT.

Intense Excitement Among the Neighbors of the Murdered Man—History of the Case.

Special Dispatch to The Evening Star.

LEESBURG, Va., July 30.—The chase after the colored man, Charles Craven, accused of the murder of William H. Wilson, continues, with the chances in favor of his being caught in a few hours. The bloodhounds arrived from Suffolk about 6 o'clock this morning, but on account of the rain could not be utilized until a new trail was struck. This was found after a lapse of several hours spent in scouting the country, and it seems Craven has again doubled on his tracks and is making in the direction of his old haunts below Leesburg. At last reports the hounds had struck a trail near Ashburn, and followed, by a posse of 300 people, were running west.

## Bloodhounds on the Trail.

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DRANESVILLE, Va., July 30.—Detective John J. S. Branch, better known as "Hurricane" Branch, who was in the chase after the colored man, Charles Craven, accused of the murder of William H. Wilson, continues, with the chances in favor of his being caught in a few hours. The bloodhounds arrived from Suffolk about 6 o'clock this morning, but on account of the rain could not be utilized until a new trail was struck. This was found after a lapse of several hours spent in scouting the country, and it seems Craven has again doubled on his tracks and is making in the direction of his old haunts below Leesburg. At last reports the hounds had struck a trail near Ashburn, and followed, by a posse of 300 people, were running west.

Dr. Detweiler, the doctor arrived in a few minutes, but too late to be of any service. In a short time the body of the assassin's bullet breathed his last. An autopsy performed by Dr. Detweiler showed that an artery had been severed and that the victim bled to death.

Mr. George Osgood of Washington and his two sisters were the first to come along the road after the crime had been committed. Lying on the dusty road fast bleeding to death was the form of Mr. Wilson. He was wearing a dark suit and a white shirt. He had a short time before. Had they not stopped at the cemetery for a few minutes, they might have reached the dying man in time to save his life. But he had lost consciousness, and there was but little blood left in his body.

Mr. Osgood remained with him while his sisters returned to Herndon and summoned Dr. Detweiler. The doctor arrived in a few minutes, but too late to be of any service. In a short time the body of the assassin's bullet breathed his last. An autopsy performed by Dr. Detweiler showed that an artery had been severed and that the victim bled to death.

Mr. John R. Hutchinson, a wealthy resident of the upper end of the county, was called upon to see Craven after the murder of the crime had been committed. He was on the pike between Broad run and Goose creek when Craven, who was going toward Sterling, was seen. He was seen to enter the vehicle and ride with him.

Mr. Hutchinson refused his request and stopped at a store on the road to borrow a rifle. He was seen to enter the vehicle and ride with him. Mr. Hutchinson refused his request and stopped at a store on the road to borrow a rifle. He was seen to enter the vehicle and ride with him.

Arms and ammunition were in greater demand in the vicinity of Herndon Monday than they had been at any time since the civil war. Shotguns, rifles and revolvers were very much in evidence, and the number of armed horsemen seen on the roads reminded the oldest residents of the days when the Union army raided the country.

The man, young or old, who was Craven, the colored man accused of the murder of Mr. William H. Wilson, was the exception. Public sentiment well as in Loudoun county, adjoining, was all one way.

"Craven was a bad nigger," many of the men were heard to remark, and the law is too good for him, and the feeling against him last night that the feeling of more men remained on duty in the rain to keep him from the woods where he was seen during the day.

Mr. G. A. Gordon, with Deputies S. H. Jacobs and S. H. Allen, have been doing their best to effect the capture of Craven. Sheriff Russell of Loudoun county is engaged in the pursuit, having tendered his life of the accused man. He is of little consideration, but the sheriff is anxious to land him in jail at the county seat and to hold him for trial. So strong is the feeling against him, that so strong are the iron bars at the jail probably not able to stand the attack which is all sure to follow his confinement.

Mr. Wilson, the victim of the foul crime, was a prominent and prosperous citizen of the county and was fifty-five years old. He had previously been a member of the county where he also enjoyed an excellent reputation and where he had a host of friends. Monday morning he had business in Herndon, which is but a short distance from where he lived. On his way home he had to drive past the house of the Cravens.

Four years ago he had sat upon a jury when Charles Craven was tried for arson. He was accused of burning the barn of Henry Smith, near Sterling, in the upper end of the county. Craven was tried with Craven and given ten years, while the latter received a sentence of only three years. It happened that Mr. Wilson held out for a long sentence for Craven, but finally gave in and voted to give him a term of three years. What he intended to do to Mr. Wilson, when he had served his term Craven repeated to other men his threat to commit murder included another man who voted him guilty of barn burning.

Craven Makes a Threat. "I'll kill these men if it takes me fifty years to find them," he is reported to have threatened.

Mr. Wilson had heard of the threat made against his life. It is stated, but paid no attention to it, for he thought Craven would forget all about it when he returned home. Craven had been known as the "bully" of the county when he was not much more than a boy, and it was believed his term in prison would bring about a reformation. Such does not seem to have been the case, however, for while he had been home from the prison at Richmond only about six weeks, he had been in more than one difficulty. He was wanted by the Loudoun county authorities for the murder of Craven, the pike near Leesburg, and had been in a row

with other colored men in this county. At the time of his arrest for burning Mr. Smith's barn he had many people in the neighborhood, and his sentence to prison came in the nature of a relief to them. Some trouble was experienced in fastening the crime upon him and causing his arrest at that time. A detective from Washington, it is stated, worked up the case and arrested him. He came here, blackened his face and associated with Craven. One night when he asked to be permitted to enter Craven's house his request was denied, but the detective gained his confidence by telling him he had done something for which he was wanted and he was anxious to hide from the officers. Then Craven gave him the information that he, too, had committed a crime and told of the burning of Mr. Smith's barn.

As already stated, Mr. Wilson paid no attention to the threat made by Craven, and when he left Herndon Monday morning he had no thought of being waylaid on the road. There was no witness to the tragedy so far as the county officers have been able to ascertain. What followed in charge of the weapon can only be surmised. Bloodprints on the road indicated that he probably got off the wagon to follow his assailant, but he then turned and fled. Craven's horse continued to gallop until he reached the home of his own people, where the tragedy was enacted. The report of the weapon, which the horses continued to gallop until he reached the home of his own people, where the tragedy was enacted. The report of the weapon, which the horses continued to gallop until he reached the home of his own people, where the tragedy was enacted.

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## MAY GO TO THE HAGUE

DISPUTE OVER THE PAYMENTS BY CHINA.

Minister Wu Consults Acting Secretary Hill About Appealing to the Tribunal.

It is within the bounds of probability that the issue that has arisen between the powers interested in China as to the medium in which the indemnities are to be paid will be settled by reference to The Hague tribunal. It is now announced that under no circumstances will the United States government be forced into the position occupied by some of the powers, who demand payment from China on the gold basis, and there are assurances of steadfast support for the United States in this contention from some of the most powerful governments concerned in the Peking agreement. Therefore, seeing that the parties to this agreement themselves cannot agree upon the important point of the indemnity payments, the proposition is advanced to refer the whole subject to The Hague tribunal. China was one of the original signatories to the Peking convention, and is therefore in a position to demand a reference of this question, and if the Chinese demand is supported, as it will be, by the United States, England, Japan, and perhaps German support, there is every reason to believe that there will be afforded an opportunity to test the utility of The Hague tribunal on a great issue.

Minister Wu was in consultation this morning at the State Department with Acting Secretary Hill on that and other matters.

ARRIVAL OF THE RODGERS. Tests to Be Made With Oil as Fuel.

The bureau of steam engineering of the Navy Department, which has been experimenting at the Washington navy yard for some time with fuel oil, has decided upon the use of oil as fuel for the torpedo boat, and for that purpose the Rodgers was ordered to Washington from the Norfolk yard. She arrived here this morning.

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While the probability of using fuel oil has been demonstrated on slow-going tramp ships, where the amount of energy to be developed is comparatively small, there is grave doubt about its feasibility on large fast ships, which require the development of immense power. The excessive heat developed by the burning of oil, and the possibility of its being used as a fuel for large fast ships, which require the development of immense power. The excessive heat developed by the burning of oil, and the possibility of its being used as a fuel for large fast ships, which require the development of immense power.

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## THEIR SUCCESSOR

Informal Discussion of the Commission.

## PROVISIONS OF LAW

NAMES OF THOSE WHO ARE SUGGESTED FOR APPOINTMENT.

President Not Likely to Immediately Consider the Matter—No Applications Filed.

The question of the appointment of a successor to Commissioner Ross of the District board has been a matter of only informal discussion so far. The President, of course, will not give any attention to the matter until after several days have elapsed because of the proprieties of the occasion. There is pressing need, however, for a Commissioner, and it is believed a general effort will be made to have the subject presented at the next session of Congress. There is no doubt that the members of the board, and no applications for building projects can be recommended or issued by the War Department for the same reason.

Because of the strict provisions of the law and the lack of a substitute for either of the civilian Commissioners, District matters to a great extent are at a standstill. The Commissioners have many times asked Congress to create the office of secretary of the District, the incumbent to have authority to act in the place of either of the two civilian Commissioners. As existing such an emergency as has existed during the past illness of Commissioner Ross and desired to provide for it. The bill creating the office was favorably reported by the House Committee on the Interior and Insular Affairs, but failed of action in the House. The Commissioners will again urge the matter next winter.

Names Brought Forward. While, as stated, the talk of a successor to Commissioner Ross has been but informal, it is probable, nevertheless, that the man who will succeed to the office has been mentioned among the names brought forward in this manner. Naturally no active steps have been taken in the matter in any direction. It is probable the President will write for the views of a number of representative men of the District, irrespective of party, as to the opinion of the residents of the District as to the best person to succeed to the office. As Mr. Ross was the democratic member of the board, it is generally conceded his successor will be of the same political faith, it being an unwritten law that there shall be one republican and one democrat among the members of the board. The President will write for the views of a number of representative men of the District, irrespective of party, as to the opinion of the residents of the District as to the best person to succeed to the office. As Mr. Ross was the democratic member of the board, it is generally conceded his successor will be of the same political faith, it being an unwritten law that there shall be one republican and one democrat among the members of the board.

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